

Investigation and Discipline of Police Conduct: Current Process & Proposed CBA Changes in Articles 28 & 29

Parameters of Employment of San Antonio Police Officers

Texas Local Government Code Chapter 143 Texas Local
Government
Code
Chapter 174

Collective Bargaining Agreement

Texas Local Government Code Chapter 143

Provides Civil Service protections to fire and police employees

Sets out requirements for hiring, promotion, terms of employments, discipline and termination

San Antonio voters adopted Act in 1947

May be repealed by election upon petition

Texas Local Government Code Chapter 174

- Enables police officers and firefighters to collectively bargain
- San Antonio voters adopted Act in 1974
- May be repealed by election upon petition
- City of San Antonio has been collectively bargaining with San Antonio Police Officers Association (SAPOA) since 1974

Discipline Process

Regulated by CBA and Chapter 143

Discipline starts with complaints from the community and from the Department

Formal Complaints are investigated by Internal Affairs



Complaint Process - Current

Formal Complaint Internal Affairs Investigation



Complaint & Administrativ e Review Board



Officer disciplined Accepts or appeals

Public or Internal Complaint

Line Complaint Supervisor/ Captain Review



Officer disciplined

Accepts or Referral to IA

Discipline must take place within 180 days of incident unless Officer is indicted.

Maximum Suspension is 3 days

Complaint Process - Proposed

Formal Complaint





Complaint & Administrativ e Review Board



Officer disciplined

Affirmatively
Accepts or
appeals

Public or Internal Complaint

Line Complaint Supervisor/ Captain Review



Officer disciplined

Accepts or Referral to IA

Discipline must take place within 180 days of incident unless Officer is indicted.

Proposal: From date of discovery, Chief has 180 days to impose discipline

Maximum Suspension is 5 days

FORMAL COMPLAINTS

Examples:

- Use of Force/Application of Force
- Treatment of Prisoners
- Conduct/Behavior
- Responsibility to Serve the Public
- Truthfulness
- Body Worn Camera/Mobile
 Video Recording

LINE COMPLAINTS

Examples:

- Searching of Prisoners
- Proper Use of Equipment
- Responsibility to Serve/Conduct and Behavior/Courtesy
- Abiding by laws and Department Orders

CBA Provides a Police Officer (current)

48 Hour Notice prior to contact by Internal Affairs

Attorney, Supervisor, or Union
Representative
during questioning

View all evidence prior to questioning

Ability to take home interrogatories

Meet with Chief to discuss contemplated discipline

Appeal Chief's decision to an Arbitrator

CBA Provides a Police Officer (Proposed)

24 Hour Notice prior to contact by Internal Affairs

Attorney, Supervisor, or Union
Representative
during questioning

View body cam evidence prior to questioning

Ability to take home interrogatories

Meet with Chief to discuss contemplated discipline

Appeal Chief's decision to an Arbitrator for factual review

Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB)

Change name to:

Chief's Complaint and Administrative Review Board

Comprised of Seven Civilians and Seven Police Officers

Authorized by CBA, hears investigations completed by Internal Affairs on complaints against police officers

Makes Disciplinary recommendation to Police Chief

Police Chief Issues Discipline: (current)

Reviews Investigation and CARB recommendation

CBA Limits how far back Chief can rely on prior misconduct

If Issue Contemplated
Discipline Officer
allowed due process
through "Loudermill"
hearing

At Loudermill Hearing
Officer provides
exculpatory or
mitigating facts in
support of lesser
discipline

Chief serves final discipline

Officer May appeal discipline in writing to Human Resources Department within 15 days

Police Chief Issues Discipline: (Proposed)

Reviews Investigation and CARB recommendation

Chief considers prior misconduct

If Issue Contemplated
Discipline Officer
allowed due process
through "Loudermill"
hearing

At Loudermill Hearing
Officer provides
exculpatory or
mitigating facts in
support of lesser
discipline

Chief serves final discipline

Officer May appeal discipline in writing to Human Resources Department within 15 days

Officer Appeal Process

- Arbitrator is selected by City and Union from a list of Seven AAA
 Arbitrators
- CBA Allows for limited discovery process
- City has burden of proof
- City is generally limited in bringing evidence of prior bad acts
- CBA allows Arbitrator to impose discipline for any amount of time deemed just by Arbitrator

Officer Appeal Process

- Arbitrator is selected by City and Union from a list of Seven AAA
 Arbitrators
- CBA Allows for limited discovery process
- City has burden of proof
- •City is generally limited in bringing evidence of prior bad acts (Proposal seeks to allow for this to be considered)
- •CBA allows Arbitrator to impose discipline for any amount of time deemed just by Arbitrator (Proposal seeks to narrow this review)

Operational Improvements

Scheduling

Articles: 7 Management Rights, 13 Hours of Work, 38 Miscellaneous Provisions

- Eliminates limit on hours of training
- Increases the maximum number of days for involuntary assignments

Working Hours

Article: 13 Hours of Work

- Allows the Chief to determine working hours for all units of the department
- Investigative Unit hours may change from a 4-day week to a 5-day week

Leave

Article: 22 Miscellaneous Leave Provisions

 Provides Chief discretion to approve or deny leave based on operational necessity

Promotion

Article: 11 Promotions

- Includes Performance Evaluation as part or eligibility criteria for promotions. Two years of "meets" or "exceeds" expectations
- Other miscellaneous changes

Civilianization

Articles: 7 Management Rights, 14 Off-Duty Employment, 39 Civilianization

- Maintains that the use of civilians in the Police Department will be used to perform duties which do not require the power of arrest
- Civilianizes the Off Duty Employment Office
- These changes will not reduce the number of uniformed positions